

**TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
WEST HARTFORD TOWN HALL
ROOM 312 - 7:00 P.M.**

July 9, 2014

Minutes

In attendance: Commission members Chuck Andrew, Judy Borden, Judy Wyman Kelly (secretary), Mary-Ann Langton, Margaret Liu, Fiona Mohring (chair), Town Liaison Marcia Lewis, and Conard student Danny Dashefsky.

1. **Meeting called to order at 7:03 by Fiona, Chair.**
2. **Approval of minutes** from May 13, 2014 meeting without changes.
3. **Introduce new member**, Charles Andrew. Chuck made some comments about his background and his interest in serving on the HRC. Other members introduced themselves.
4. **West Hartford Community Connections planning session for a Dialogue to Action Initiative-- West Hartford: Living Learning and Working Together in a 21st Century World.** Fiona and Judy B. gave an update on this June 24 meeting. Seems to have been an initial planning session for future community dialogues on issues relevant to residents of West Hartford. Fiona and Judy B. will continue attending. This group has also contacted Faxon branch library about a possible meeting at that site. Marcia will attempt to clarify the overall project and provide links as possible.
5. **Park Road Parade and Human Rights Day.**
Park Road Parade:
Commission members decided to participate in the Park Road parade (Oct. 18) to increase visibility. At the very least members will march wearing t-shirts and holding a banner displaying the words from our mission statement, "Equality, Understanding and Respect." Hopefully families, friends, students and any interested people will join. **Judy K., Margaret and Mary-Ann** will form a subcommittee on publicity to make the plans. They will meet **Aug. 6 am** at the main branch. Marcia will ensure that the participation form is forwarded to the group from Renee McCue as soon as it's developed.
Human Rights Day:
The banner space at Farmington and Main needs to be reserved one year in advance, so **Margaret** will call them on Dec. 10, 2014 for the following year.
Other ideas included contacting religious groups, schools, city council, etc, to invite them to acknowledge Human Rights day. Main planning for this will take place at the Commission's November meeting.
6. **Evanston, IL, Human Relations Committee plan of action:** the group talked a bit about the benefits of having a plan of action similar to the one **Margaret** shared from Evanston, IL. **Fiona, Chuck, Marcia, Judy B. and David K** will form a Work Plan subcommittee to start drafting a Commission Work Plan. They will meet sometime this summer. There were some suggestions

about the possibility of developing a grass-roots community needs assessment—to begin engaging the community.

7. **South Windsor Human Rights Commission: David K.** is setting up a time to meet with members of this Commission.
8. **National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ): David K.** is setting up a time to meet with the director.
9. **Publicity:**

Facebook page—Judy K. invited everyone to send her relevant articles and events to post. A suggestion was made to use LinkedIn as well. **Judy K.** will investigate.

West Hartford Patch—Margaret has been posting something on WH Patch about Human Rights once a week, and referring people to the HRC facebook page.

Business cards—Judy K. and Margaret reported on handing out HRC business cards at Celebrate West Hartford. HRC business cards were distributed to Commissioners to hand out and post on bulletin boards, etc.

10. Old business

- A. **Town HRC website:** the mission statement is finally up-to-date, but people's contact information isn't. Any changes should go to **Judy K.** and she will give to the town; there was discussion about whether the HRC page could have a link to our facebook webpage. **Marcia** will look into this.

11. Any other matters:

- A. **City Council Meetings:** a suggestion was made that HRC members take turns attending the city council meetings as a way to increase HRC visibility in the town.
- B. **Commission member responsibilities:** Marcia will forward the Town handbook "Welcome to Public Service" –which should be reviewed by all members. This includes much useful information about including protocols for handling "non-regular" meetings.
- C. **Nov. 4 meeting date:** a suggestion was made to change the November meeting date to Nov. 5 as Nov. 4 is Election Day. **Fiona** will check with absent members, Chester, Karyl and David to see if that date works for them and then get back to **Judy K.** so she can alert the town.
- D. **2015 meeting dates:** need to be decided at the November meeting.
- E. **Corporation Counsel:** **Marcia** will forward to all members answers to questions posed about fundraising and facebook protocol when she receives them.

12. Meeting adjourned at 8:22.